



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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It's Delaware Eat Local Summer '09

On July 8, in recognition of the contribution Delaware agriculture makes to the state's economy and quality of life, Governor Jack Markell presented a proclamation to Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee that designates the summer of 2009 as *Delaware Eat Local Summer '09*. From farm fresh produce delicious, high quality, healthy canned and frozen vegetables, locally grown poultry, meats, dairy products, and more, Governor Markell is appealing to Delawareans to eat and buy local during the summer of 2009.



Governor Markell presenting *Delaware Eat Local Summer '09* proclamation to Secretary of Agriculture Kee

Markell said, "There are grocery chains, farmers' markets, on-the farm markets, restaurants, etc., throughout Delaware that sell locally grown and locally processed foods. I urge everyone to look for Delaware products and Delaware processed products when they shop and dine. If you don't find them, ask for them. I will be visiting outlets throughout the summer and all through the year."

Markell continued, "Eating local also helps us all go green when you consider the amount of fuel it takes to bring food into Delaware from other parts of the country and the globe. When you eat locally, you know that the products did not travel for days from far-away places – they were grown by people you know, on farms you can see. These farms also preserve open space, wildlife habitat, our heritage and rural culture."

Kee said, "Thank you Governor for your on-going support of Delaware agriculture. Our farmers produce quality nutritious products that can be enjoyed by all Delawareans, fresh in-season, and canned and frozen as well. For more information on grocery chains, farmers' markets, on-the farm markets, and other outlets that carry Delaware products, contact the Delaware Department of Agriculture. Our staff is eager to assist you. You can reach the Department by calling (800) 282-8685 in Delaware or (302) 698-4500.

A copy of the proclamation is attached.

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STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF EAT LOCAL SUMMER '09

Whereas, local Delaware's farmers produce delicious, high-quality, healthy vegetables, fruits, herbs, poultry, meats and dairy products; and

Whereas, as citizens of Delaware, we value the direct connection between the agricultural community of Delaware and the food we place on our tables; and

Whereas, local Delaware farmers produce 10,600 acres of vegetables for the fresh market annually and 31,900 acres of vegetables for processing annually; and

Whereas, Vlasic Pickles, The Pictsweet Company, Hanover Food Corp. and J.G. Townsends, Inc. use locally grown vegetables in their canned and frozen foods; and

Whereas, local Delaware farmers produce quality broiler chickens for Allen Family Foods, Inc., Mountaire Farms and Perdue Farms; and

Whereas, local Delaware farmers produce creamy, tempting ice cream from local dairy cows; and

Whereas, eating locally produced food supports our state's farmers and helps us all "go green" by being mindful of the miles our food has to travel; and

Whereas, these products are found in grocery chains, farmers' markets and on-farm markets in Delaware; and

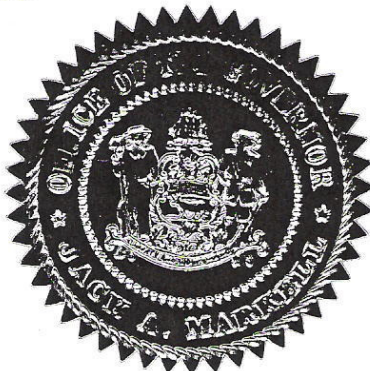
Whereas, the economic benefits of buying food raised, grown and processed locally are known; and

Whereas, buying food raised, grown and processed locally helps preserve valuable Delaware farmland, Delaware jobs, our rural heritage and our quality of life.


Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor, and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby recognize the importance and quality of Delaware's local food products and agricultural industry to our quality of life and do proclaim the summer of 2009 as:

EAT LOCAL SUMMER '09

in the State of Delaware, and we challenge all Delawareans to purchase locally grown and locally processed food for their tables at local grocery chains, farmers' markets and on-farm markets.




Jack A. Markell
Governor


Matthew Denn
Lieutenant Governor

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